	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/782,235	EDWARDS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	YOSEF KASSA	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to _an amendment filed on January 21, 2005_.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are _1-16, 18-22 and 24-27_.

3. ☒ The drawings filed on _January 21, 2005_ are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some*   c)☐ None   of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a)☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1)☐ hereto or 2)☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b)☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the

changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment

may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of

such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of

the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a

telephone interview with Sheryl S. Holloway on June 23, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows: See Examiner's

amendment in the following pages.

In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) An effects application system comprising:

an effects source for applying an effect onto an image and

a ~~translucent~~ masking tool which defines a masked portion that prevents the effect source from applying the effect onto the masked portion of the image, the ~~translucent~~ masking tool dynamically moving within the image in response to user input during the application of the effect, wherein the masked portion of the image is viewable by the user.

2. (Currently amended) The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the ~~translucent~~ masking tool has a customized shape.

3. (Currently amended) The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the ~~translucent~~ masking tool is movable relative to the image.

4. (Currently amended) The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the ~~translucent~~ masking tool simulates a fixed edge.

5. (Currently amended) The effects application system according the Claim 1 wherein the masked portion of the image is denoted by cross-hatching ~~while the masked portion of the image is still viewable by the user~~.

6. (Currently amended) The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the masked portion of the image is denoted by shading ~~while the masked portion of the image is still viewable by the user~~.

7. (Currently amended) A method of masking comprising:

positioning a masking tool over a masked portion of an image;

applying an effect onto the image outside the masked portion; and

dynamically moving the masking tool within the image while applying the effect in response to user input, wherein the masked portion changes as the masking tool is dynamically moved and the masked portion of the image is viewable by the user.

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 7 further comprising customizing a shape of the masking tool.

9. (Original) The method according to Claim 7 wherein the masking tool is translucent.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The method according to Claim 7 wherein the masked portion of the image is shaded.

12. (Original) The method according to Claim 7 wherein dynamically moving the masking tool and applying the effect occur simultaneously.

13. (Original) The method according to Claim 7 further comprising applying multiple masking tools onto the image.

14. (Previously presented) A machine-readable medium having instructions to cause a processor to execute a method comprising:

>   positioning a masking tool over a masked portion of an image;
>   applying an effect onto the image outside the masked portion; and
>   dynamically moving the masking tool within the image while applying the effect

in response to user input, wherein the masked portion changes as the masking tool is dynamically moved and the masked portion of the image is viewable by the user.

15. (Previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises customizing a shape of the masking tool.

16. (Previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the masking tool is translucent.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the masked portion of the image is shaded.

19. (Previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 14, wherein dynamically moving the masking tool and applying the effect occur simultaneously.

20. (Previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises applying multiple masking tools onto the image.

21. (Previously presented) A computerized system comprising:

a processor coupled to a memory through a bus; and

an effects application process executed from the memory by the processor to cause the processor to position a masking tool over a masked portion of an image, apply an effect onto the image outside the masked portion, and dynamically move the masking tool within the image while applying the effect in response to user input, wherein the masked portion changes as the masking tool is dynamically moved and the masked portion of the image is viewable by the user.

22. (Previously presented) The computerized system of claim 21, wherein the effects application process further causes the processor to customize a shape of the masking tool.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) The computerized system of claim 21, wherein the masked portion of the image is shaded.

25. (Previously presented) The computerized system of claim 21, wherein dynamically moving the masking tool and applying the effect occur simultaneously.

26. (Previously presented) The computerized system of claim 21, wherein the effects application process further causes the processor to apply multiple masking tools onto the image.

27. (Previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

      means for applying an effect onto an image and

      means for defining a masked portion that prevents the means for applying from applying the effect onto the masked portion of the image, wherein the means for defining is configured to dynamically move within the image in response to user input during the application of the effect and the masked portion of the image is viewable by the user.

Reasons of Allowance

1.   Based on applicant's amendment/persuasive argument filed on January 21, 2005,

the art rejection for claims 1-16, 18-22 and 24-27 has been withdrawn. Therefore,

claims 1-16, 18-22 and 24-27 are allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to YOSEF KASSA whose telephone number is (703) 306-

5918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to

6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, BHAVESH MEHTA can be reached on (703) 308-5246. The fax phone

numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)

872-9306 for regular communication and (703) 872-9306 for after Final

communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or

proceeding should be directed to the customer service office whose telephone number

is (703) 306-5631. The group receptionist number for TC 2600 is (703) 305-4700.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published

applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the

Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PATENT EXAMINER

Yosef Kassa

06/10/05.

BHAVESH M. MEHTA
SUPER`    :`3RY PATENT EXAMINER
TECr...GLOGY CENTER 2600